



Complete Summary

TITLE

Osteoarthritis: percentage of patients with osteoarthritis pain of mild or moderate severity for whom acetaminophen is the first drug used for initial nonnarcotic pharmacologic therapy to aid with problem tasks.

SOURCE(S)

MacLean CH, Saag KG, Solomon DH, Morton SC, Sampsel S, Klippel JH. Measuring quality in arthritis care: methods for developing the Arthritis Foundation's quality indicator set. *Arthritis Rheum* 2004 Apr 15;51(2):193-202. [PubMed](#)

Pencharz JN, MacLean CH. Measuring quality in arthritis care: the Arthritis Foundation's Quality Indicator set for osteoarthritis. *Arthritis Rheum* 2004 Aug 15;51(4):538-48. [108 references] [PubMed](#)

Measure Domain

PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Does not apply to this measure

Brief Abstract

DESCRIPTION

This measure is used to assess the percentage of patients with osteoarthritis pain of mild or moderate severity for whom acetaminophen is the first drug used for initial nonnarcotic pharmacologic therapy.

RATIONALE

Acetaminophen should be the first drug used because it achieves pain relief comparable to a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) (nonselective and selective) and is less toxic.

The American Board of Family Practice (ABFP) advocates acetaminophen as the first-line pharmacologic agent for treating osteoarthritis (OA). The American Pain Society (APS) recommends acetaminophen as the first-line pharmacologic therapy in patients with mild OA.

PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Osteoarthritis; nonnarcotic pharmacologic therapy; acetaminophen

DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

Patients with osteoarthritis pain of mild or moderate severity for whom nonnarcotic pharmacologic therapy is initiated

NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION

Patients for whom acetaminophen is the first drug used, unless there is documented contraindication for use

Evidence Supporting the Measure

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY

- A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence
- A formal consensus procedure involving experts in relevant clinical, methodological, and organizational sciences

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Unspecified

State of Use of the Measure

STATE OF USE

Current routine use

CURRENT USE

Internal quality improvement

Application of Measure in its Current Use

CARE SETTING

Ambulatory Care
Physician Group Practices/Clinics

PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Advanced Practice Nurses
Physician Assistants
Physicians

LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Individual Clinicians

TARGET POPULATION AGE

Unspecified

TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common form of arthritis. It is a degenerative joint disease that affects about 12% of the general population, with prevalence increasing with age. Between 60% and 70% of individuals aged 65 years or older show radiographic changes consistent with OA, and about half of these meet classification criteria for the disease by reporting joint pain or stiffness.

EVIDENCE FOR INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Hawker G. Epidemiology of arthritis and osteoporosis. 1st ed. Toronto (ON): Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES); 1998.

Lawrence RC, Helmick CG, Arnett FC, Deyo RA, Felson DT, Giannini EH, Heyse SP, Hirsch R, Hochberg MC, Hunder GG, Liang MH, Pillemer SR, Steen VD, Wolfe F. Estimates of the prevalence of arthritis and selected musculoskeletal disorders in the United States. Arthritis Rheum 1998 May;41(5):778-99. [PubMed](#)

ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

See "Incidence/Prevalence" field.

BURDEN OF ILLNESS

Pain and disability are the most common consequences of osteoarthritis (OA) joint damage.

EVIDENCE FOR BURDEN OF ILLNESS

Felson DT, Lawrence RC, Dieppe PA, Hirsch R, Helmick CG, Jordan JM, Kington RS, Lane NE, Nevitt MC, Zhang Y, Sowers M, McAlindon T, Spector TD, Poole AR, Yanovski SZ, Ateshian G, Sharma L, Buckwalter JA, Brandt KD, Fries JF. Osteoarthritis: new insights. Part 1: the disease and its risk factors. Ann Intern Med 2000 Oct 17;133(8):635-46. [120 references] [PubMed](#)

UTILIZATION

Unspecified

COSTS

Unspecified

Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM CARE NEED

Living with Illness

IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness

Data Collection for the Measure

CASE FINDING

Users of care only

DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

Patients with osteoarthritis pain of mild or moderate severity for whom nonnarcotic pharmacologic therapy is initiated

DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME

Patients associated with provider

DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

Patients with osteoarthritis pain of mild or moderate severity for whom nonnarcotic pharmacologic therapy is initiated

Exclusions

Unspecified

RELATIONSHIP OF DENOMINATOR TO NUMERATOR

All cases in the denominator are equally eligible to appear in the numerator

DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Clinical Condition

Therapeutic Intervention

DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window is a single point in time

NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS**Inclusions**

Patients for whom acetaminophen is the first drug used

Exclusions

Patients with documented contraindication to use of acetaminophen

MEASURE RESULTS UNDER CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR POLICYMAKERS

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW

Encounter or point in time

DATA SOURCE

Administrative and medical records data

Administrative data and patient survey

Medical record

Patient survey

LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY

Individual Case

PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED

Unspecified

Computation of the Measure**SCORING**

Rate

INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a higher score

ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Unspecified

STANDARD OF COMPARISON

Internal time comparison

Evaluation of Measure Properties**EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING**

A multidisciplinary expert panel comprised of nationally recognized experts discussed and rated the validity of each of the proposed measures based on the evidence and their expert opinion using a modification of the RAND/UCLA Appropriateness Method.

EVIDENCE FOR RELIABILITY/VALIDITY TESTING

MacLean CH, Saag KG, Solomon DH, Morton SC, Sampsel S, Klippel JH. Measuring quality in arthritis care: methods for developing the Arthritis Foundation's quality indicator set. Arthritis Rheum 2004 Apr 15;51(2):193-202. [PubMed](#)

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Identifying Information**ORIGINAL TITLE**

Quality indicator 11. Initial pharmacologic therapy.

MEASURE COLLECTION

[The Arthritis Foundation's Quality Indicator Project](#)

MEASURE SET NAME

[The Arthritis Foundation's Quality Indicator Set for Osteoarthritis](#)

SUBMITTER

Arthritis Foundation

DEVELOPER

Arthritis Foundation
RAND Health

ADAPTATION

Measure was not adapted from another source.

RELEASE DATE

2004 Aug

MEASURE STATUS

This is the current release of the measure.

SOURCE(S)

MacLean CH, Saag KG, Solomon DH, Morton SC, Sampsel S, Klippel JH. Measuring quality in arthritis care: methods for developing the Arthritis Foundation's quality indicator set. Arthritis Rheum 2004 Apr 15;51(2):193-202. [PubMed](#)

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MEASURE AVAILABILITY

The individual measure, "Quality Indicator 11. Initial Pharmacologic Therapy," is published in "Measuring Quality in Arthritis Care: The Arthritis Foundation's Quality Indicator Set for Osteoarthritis."

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NQMC STATUS

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI on August 24, 2006. The information was verified by the measure developer on November 6, 2006.

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Date Modified: 11/3/2008

